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Montréal Communiqué

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HAPPY NEW YEAR. HERE'S A BRIEF LOOK BACK AT
SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN 1970.

JANUARY--The Montreal YMCA assumed interim responsibility for the Montreal Youth Clinic. At the time it was providing medical and psychiatric assistance to about 250 young people. The monthly caseload soared to about 1,200 during the summer period.

A private citizen purchased a house on St. Catherine W. for use as a youth centre. Now, chartered as 4424 Inc., the premises contain facilities for recreation, counselling and informal education, as well as a comprehensive medical and psychiatric clinic.

The Y was called on to direct a course on "The Use and Abuse of Drugs." It was offered under the auspices of McGill University, in co-operation with the United Nations Association.

West Island Y came up with a family ski program. It operated Saturdays at Kamp Kanawana and included instruction, a baby-sitting service, lunch facilities and free soup.

Accomodations were provided for 14 young ladies in the Downtown Y's 500-room residence.

FEBRUARY--Three of the most popular members of the Expos baseball club were enlisted as honorary captains for the Y's financial campaign. They were Ronnie Brand, Dan McGinn and Claude Raymond.

A 60-hour hockey marathon was organized to raise funds for the Y in Verdun-LaSalle. The undertaking involved some 50 young people, age 14-20.

N.D.G.-Y's Kinder Program taught a 7-month old pre-toddler to enjoy the water, immerse her face in it and float on her back for up to three minutes at a stretch. A special fitness-testing clinic was also held for women.

MARCH--International Y began an after-class recreational program for several hundred 8-15 year olds from Edward VII School.

Management of Fairview Shopping Centre agreed to provide facilities in the complex for a youth centre. This is now operating as RENDEZVOUS 6801.

Rix Rogers, the Montreal Y's General Secretary, warned that ignoring either 'turned-on' or 'turned-off' young people could eventually result in social bankruptcy.

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APRIL--West Island Y's Bill Pigott and Dr. Sidney Lecker, a prominent psychiatrist, co-authored a paper on "Coping with Drug Abuse." The material was published by the National Department of Health and Welfare.

Undeterred by rain and chill, eight Montreal Y joggers entered the Boston Marathon and completed the more than 26-mile course.

Following the example of International and Westmount Branches, N.D.G.-Y announced that a special French-language section would be added to its summer day camp.

Fred Hubbard, former General Secretary of the Montreal Y, was awarded a life membership in the National Council of YMCAs of Canada. This is the Highest Y honor in this country.

After just two years in organized competition, the Downtown Y's Red Raiders won the Quebec basketball championship.

Dr. J.R. Unwin, Director of the Allan Memorial Institute's Adolescent Unit, took time out from a hectic schedule to publicly salute the Y. He said the association's outreach work in Montreal is the only type of program in which he had any great faith.

MAY--A free legal aid clinic was started in International Y for Greek-born immigrants.

Holbrook R. Davis, Alcan Aluminium's Chief Employee Relations Officer, was elected president of the National Council of Canadian YMCAs.

Fifteen YMCA fitness program participants took part in a Miles for Millions walk. Most of them jogged the 28-mile course in under four hours.

Directors of the Metropolitan Board of the Montreal YMCA approved a record budget of more than \$2.8 million for the fiscal year started June 1, 1970.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST--As was noted in the annual report, efforts to cope with a mounting workload helped sharpen and temper the capabilities of the Montreal Y during the year ended May 31, 1970.

Some 32,000 different persons were involved during the summer in Montreal Y activities. These included street work, day camps, resident camps, aquatics and alley programs. They provided vacation time employment for some 375 students.

NDG Branch developed a special aquatics workout for individuals who felt it would be too hot to exercise in a gymnasium. The name of this branch was officially changed to Northwestern YMCA.

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SEPTEMBER--Challenging samplings of current moves to meet change were dramatically highlighted at the Montreal Y's 118th annual meeting.

Two more ladies were appointed members of the Metropolitan Board.

The Solicitor General's Department underwrote a Y street work project to curb juvenile delinquency in an east-central area of the city.

A vacant police station on Craig St. E. was converted into a youth centre.

A program to 'physically and psychologically' develop youngsters was included in a new Y manual for minor league football coaches. Material was prepared by Roy McKelvie and Floyd Johnson.

OCTOBER--Rix Rogers was appointed General Secretary of the National Council of Canadian YMCAs. He takes over that post April 1, 1971.

The following volunteered to serve as key leaders of the Y's 1971 financial campaign: G. Arnold Hart, Honorary Chairman; Frank B. Peterson, General Chairman; Pierre Delagrange, Chairman of Divisions; E.A. Thompson, Chairman, Corporate & Special Names.

A 10-hour non-stop Run-a-Fund was held in Alexis Nihon Plaza to raise funds for the Y's work in Guyana, South America.

NOVEMBER--Ross Bannerman was appointed General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the YMCAs of Greater Montreal.

Participation in Saturday youth programs of Northwestern Y was four times greater than a year earlier.

International Y was selected to operate a Learn-French program for Simpsons-Sears sales executives.

Members of the faculty and administrative staff of Vanier College started participating with students in a YMCA fitness program.

DECEMBER--Plans were announced to develop a comprehensive YMCA fitness centre in the West Island area.

A foundation agreed to finance the next 12 months costs of publishing ECHO, the Greek language magazine put out by a group involved with the Y in the Mile End West section of Montreal.

HERE'S HOPING YOU ALL HAD
A MERRY CHRISTMAS

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For further information please
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